

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 are amended, claims 6, 13 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 22-24 are added, herein.

The specification is objected to. The U.S. application serial number for the application referenced in the related applications section of the specification has been added to address the noted concern. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by Chung, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,877,096). Claims 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Chung in view of Stamper (GB 2,334,456).

As amended, independent claims 1 and 15 require a token that stores a game initial data. Also required is that the token be attachable to and detachable from a figure.

Independent claim 8 requires a figure for a gaming machine that has form resembling a character used in the gaming machine and a base portion to which the form is attached. Also required is that the base portion be attachable to and detachable from a token having an integrated circuit chip storing a game initial data.

Stamper, lacks any disclosure of a figure and token which are attachable and detachable from each other.

With regard to Chung, while it is acknowledged that Chung has attachable

tokens, the devices 100 and 105 do not take the form of figures.

Claim 15 further requires that the stored game initial data are selected from a game initial data group. It is unclear what disclosure is being relied upon within Chung as teaching this limitation. Accordingly, to the extent the rejection is maintained with respect to claim 15, it is respectfully requested that the relied upon disclosure within Chung, be identified with specificity.

Other features recited in the dependent claims further distinguish over the applied prior art. For example, each of claims 4, 11 and 18 require that the stored game initial data are randomly selected from the group. While Stamper is identified as making this limitation obvious, the rationale for the rejection is unclear. More particularly, in the explanation provided on pages 4 and 5 of the Official Action dated October 14, 2005, there does not appear to be any specific identification of a disclosure within the Chung and Stamper combination which teaches or suggests such a random selection.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 4, 11 and 18 be reconsidered and withdrawn. To the extent that the rejection is maintained, it is respectfully requested that the support for the rejection within Chung and Stamper, be identified with specificity.

Claims 5, 12 and 19 require that the game initial data include bonus data providing a predetermined profit in a game. Here again, the basis for the rejection of these claims is unclear. It is contended that "one of ordinary skill in the art of role playing games (RPG) would have easily understood the use of making a data set for

use in defining a playing character from an initial data group in assigning a bonus attribute that gives the player a predetermined advantage (profit) since such is notoriously well known in the art of RPG's".

It is first respectfully requested, to the extent the rejection is maintained, that art be made of record and applied which provides objective evidence that assigning a bonus attribute to stored game initial data which is on attachable and detachable media is conventional. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that Chung and Stamper, as the Examiner appears to recognize, lacks any teaching or suggestion of including such bonus data in game initial data. It is further respectfully submitted that this feature in combination with tokens that are attachable and detachable is particularly beneficial. For example, as has been described in detail in the specification with reference to Figure 3, tokens with and without bonuses may be supplied for attachment to the same figure, and hence customers may be motivated to buy additional tokens until a desired bonus token has been purchased.

New claims 22-24 require that the token is attachable to the figure or base portion of the figure only if no other token is attached to that figure or base. Also required is that with the token attached to the figure or base portion, the game initial data is combinable by the gaming machine with game initial data stored on another integrated circuit chip of another token attached to another figure resembling the same character.

It is respectfully submitted that whether taken individually or in combination, Chung and Stamper lack any teaching or suggestion of such limitations. More

particularly, as noted above, Stamper lacks attachable and detachable tokens. While Chung does disclose attachable and detachable tokens, Chung lacks any teaching or suggestion that only a single token is attachable to a device. Indeed, Chung explicitly teaches that multiple tokens are attachable to an individual device. Furthermore, neither Chung nor Stamper disclose attaching different tokens to figures or bases of figures that resemble the same character and having game initial data on these tokens combined by the gaming machine.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

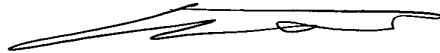
Docket No.: 3022-0019
File No. 1227.43062X00
Client No.: ARF-030US
Applicant No. P02-0373US

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this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135
(Case No. 1227.43062X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit
Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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